



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 5, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended January 31 totaled an estimated 18.3 billion ton-miles, 7.0 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 5 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 85.7 billion ton-miles, 1.8 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended January 31 totaled 443,161 cars, 1.9 percent above 1980, and 1.5 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 3.2 percent in the East, and 4.0 percent in the South, but down 0.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 16 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings were up 20,885 cars, or 21.5 percent, metallic ores 3,252 cars, or 14.6 percent, and grain 2,368 cars, or 8.1 percent. Twelve of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended January 24 totaled 32,281 cars, down 6.4 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 57,967 trailers and/or containers, 7.1 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 4 weeks of the year was 111,641 cars, 10.2 percent lower than last year, and 201,038 trailers and/or containers, down 10.6 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 01/31/81:

	Loadings in Week ended January 31, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980		Change from Preceding Week		
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	31,706	I	2,368	8.1	D	2,841	8.2
Other farm products	4,087	D	469	10.3	D	244	5.6
Metallic ores	25,483	I	3,252	14.6	D	351	1.4
Coal	118,145	I	20,885	21.5	I	6,429	5.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,903	D	1,123	9.3	I	449	4.3
Nonmetallic minerals	12,489	D	976	7.2	D	892	6.7
Grain mill products	16,640	D	2,205	11.7	D	182	1.1
Food and kindred products	17,184	D	1,808	9.5	D	309	1.8
Primary forest products	19,936	I	229	1.2	I	19	0.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,613	D	1,443	13.1	I	537	5.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	21,489	D	918	4.1	I	248	1.2
Chemicals and allied products	28,835	D	182	0.6	I	600	2.1
Petroleum products	6,447	D	12	0.2	D	191	2.9
Stone, clay and glass products	13,666	D	1,298	8.7	D	224	1.6
Coke	6,229	D	409	6.2	I	109	1.8
Metals and products	16,890	D	2,219	11.6	I	598	3.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,872	D	2,023	10.7	I	874	5.5
Waste and scrap materials	12,922	D	336	2.5	D	316	2.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,924	D	1,326	10.8	I	520	5.0
All other carloads	42,357	D	1,852	4.2	I	1,498	3.7
LCL traffic	344	I	95	38.2	I	15	4.6
Total Cars Loaded	443,161	I	8,230	1.9	I	6,346	1.5

Corresponding week of 1980

434,931

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>% Change</u>	
Total Cars Loaded (5 weeks)	2,050,457	2,134,932	D	4.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
4 Weeks cumulative	67.4	67.1	I	0.5
Week ended January 31	<u>18.3</u>	<u>17.1</u>	I	<u>7.0</u>
5 Weeks cumulative	85.7	84.2	I	1.8